

1 1. A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving and mailing a specimen of material for later  
2 analysis, which comprises:

3 a tubular vessel having a first closed end defining at least one sealed access port, a second  
4 open end opposite said first end and a transversal septum in a median portion of said vessel, said  
5 septum dividing said vessel into a first chamber sealed by said closed end and a second chamber  
6 accessible through said second end, said septum further having an axial passageway therethrough  
7 defining a given cross-sectional geometry;

8 a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said open end;

9 a stick projecting axially from said stopper into said vessel and including a  
10 sample-holding distal portion extending through said passageway and into said first chamber  
11 when said stopper is secured upon said open end; and

12 a cover releasably occluding said sealed access port.

1 2. The device of Claim 1, wherein a section of said stick extending through said passageway has  
2 a cross-sectional geometry substantially symmetrical with said given cross-sectional geometry;

3 whereby said passageway is sealed by said section.

1 3. The device of Claim 2, wherein said distal portion comprises an oblong cylindrical member  
2 dimensioned to intimately engage through said passageway.

1 4. The device of Claim 3, wherein said member has surface indentations.

- 1        5. The device of Claim 4, wherein said indentations consist of an helicoidal thread..
- 1        6. The device of Claim 2, wherein said sealed access port comprises an end-breakable hollow  
2        nib.
- 1        7. The device of Claim 2, wherein the open end of said vessel and said stopper have cooperating  
2        screw threads.
- 1        8. The device of Claim 6, which further comprises a cover shaped and dimensioned to cap said  
2        closed end and nib.
- 1        9. The device of Claim 8, wherein the open end of said vessel and said cover have cooperating  
2        screw threads.
- 1        10. The device of Claim 2, which further comprises a liquid in said first chamber.
- 1        11. The device of Claim 10, wherein said first chamber is doubly sealed at opposite ends.
- 1        12. The device of Claim 1 which further comprises an outer transport capsule sized and shaped  
2        to fully enclose said vessel, stopper, and cover.

1 13. The device of Claim 12, wherein said capsule comprises a matable pair of open-ended  
2 cylindrical cups, wherein each of said cups comprises a closed end and a resilient pad mounted  
3 upon an inner surface of said closed end.

1 14. The device of Claim 12, wherein said capsule comprises a substantially cylindrical cup and  
2 an end cap.

1 15. The device of Claim 14, wherein said end cap comprises:  
2 a hollow frusto-conical spring pedestal having an outer surface shaped and dimensioned  
3 to penetrate a substantially cylindrical hole in an outer surface of said stopper.

1 16. The device of Claim 1, which further comprises an oblong handle having a tip sized to  
2 releasably mount said stopper thereon.

1 17. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle further comprises a first member slidingly  
2 mounted to a second member.

1 18. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle further comprises at least two coaxially  
2 telescoping members.

1 19. The device of Claim 16, wherein said handle in a collapsed configuration is sized to be  
2 enclosed within said capsule.

1 20. The device of Claim 1, which further comprises an amount of desiccant located in said  
2 second chamber.

1 21. The device of Claim 1, wherein said sealed access port is releasably sealed by a plug.

1 22. The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug is threaded to releasably engage said first closed  
2 end having cooperative threads.

1 23. The device of Claim 21, wherein said plug comprises a machine graspable outer surface.

1 24. The device of Claim 2, wherein said machine graspable outer surface comprises a faceted  
2 surface.

1 25. The device of Claim 1, wherein said vessel has a tapered outer surface.

1 26. The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface is oriented to create a first axially  
2 medial surface portion having a narrower axial cross-section than a second axially medial surface  
3 portion.

1 27. The device of Claim 26, wherein said second axially medial surface portion is located closer  
2 to said first closed end than said first axially medial surface portion.

1 28. The device of Claim 25, wherein said tapered outer surface has a substantially frustro-conical  
2 shape.

1 29. A device, for quantitatively collecting, preserving and mailing a specimen of fecal or other  
2 biological matter for later analysis, which comprises a tubular vessel having a narrow channel  
3 section and first and second opposite ends;

4 a stopper shaped and dimensioned to close said first end;

5 a stick extending from said stopper into said vessel and through said narrow channel  
6 section;

7 said stick comprising a distal end having indentations and being sized to closely engage  
8 said narrow channel;

9 a plug shaped and dimensioned to close said second end; and

10 a cover releasably capping said second end and said plug.

1 30. A method for quantitatively collecting a specimen of biological matter which comprises:

2 dipping the indented distal end of a stick into said matter;

3 inserting said distal end into a vessel through an aperture shaped and dimensioned to  
4 intimately and circumferentially contact said distal end;

5 whereby excess collected matter on the surface of said distal end outside said indentations  
6 are kept out of said vessel by passage of said distal end through said aperture; and

7 introducing into said vessel a measured volume of specimen-preserving fluid.

1        31. The method of Claim 30, wherein said method further comprises:  
2                keeping said excess collected matter in a chamber adjacent to said vessel.

1        32. The method of Claim 31, wherein said keeping comprises:  
2                allowing said excess collected matter to dry.

1        33. The method of Claim 32, wherein said keeping further comprises:  
2                drying said excess collected matter in the presence of a desiccant.